NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LAND TRUST

P.O. BOX 156 BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94701

TELEPHONE: 415-655-9470

a charitable, non-profit organization committed to the stewardship of land

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WE APOLOGIZE for our silence over these past several months. Our efforts in developing the organization, defining our principles and objectives, and planning important projects have left us little time even to publish a newsletter.

N.C.L.T. LEASE AGREEMENT is now in its final stages of preparation. It is a document which we feel realizes all the principles of the charitable land trust concept, and promotes responsible and productive use of agricultural land. Basically, the lease grants tenants only the use-rights related to agriculture (i.e. no mineral or other development rights), and is renewable for the lifetime of the tenant. When completed, we feel that the lease agreement will answer any questions that are likely to arise concerning the use of trust lands.

WHO QUALIFIES ? When considering potential applicants, NCLT evaluates experience and ability to cultivate, the ability to share and work well with others, responsibilities of applicants to dependents (husbands, wives, children), extent of financial disadvantage, and perhaps most importantly, the desire to provide for world food shortages over and above one's subsistence.

NCLT HAS ACQUIRED 40 ACRES OF LAND near Lodi, California, and is currently in the process of placing three households on it. Pedro migrated to the United States from Chile approximately two years ago with his wife and two children. Tony is originally from the Philippines, although he has lived for many years in this country with his wife and four children. The group is completed by Dennis, a young student of agriculture. Competent farmers all, these families have dreamed of having small farms on which to support themselves and others. Financially beyond their capabilities, it remained a dream while agri-businessmen who care less for the land continued to desecrate good soil for profit. Now the dream has become a reality, and all concerned are eagerly getting involved in its beginning steps. We know that all of our friends will join us in wishing them a satisfying and productive association for many years to come. Your donations could help them to acquire the few things they will need to begin cultivating (tractor, tools, seed, animals, etc.) and will help us to pay for the land and plan new communities.

THE STAFF OF NCLT is growing. John deValcourt is now working full-time as our director, and Eric Ginsburg, a UC Political Economy student, is employed part-time with federal Work-Study funds. John has worked in education as a teacher and as the executive director of an organization for juvenile offenders in St. Louis, and in California has been an organizer for the United Farm Workers, and an associate of the AFSC's Simple Living Program and the San Francisco Life Center.

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA offers remarkable educational opportunities for those interested in learning about communal farming. Our president, Steve Bridge, along with others in the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association, the trip's sponsor , will visit that country in September to observe how their farming collectives are organized, how the workers are encouraged to contribute creatively to the development of new practices, and how group decision-making process is developed. If all is successful, the visitors should return home with many new ideas to substantially advance and promote the principles of the charitable land trust.

donations are tax-deductible -- make payable to N.C.L.T.

(OVER)

EXTENSIVE COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER LAND TRUSTS in the United States indicates rapidly-growing support for the land trust concept. Now that we at NCLT are gaining momentum, we cannot rest on our few laurels. Your donations can enable us to establish new farms within the land trust which will show, and not just tell, others that the land trust is a viable and preferable alternative to agri-business, and a means of placing capable low-income families in control of their own lives and ensuring the productivity of the soil for generations to come.

LAND IS LIFE -- SHARE IT!

CLIP AND MAIL TO: Northern California Land Trust, P.O. Box 156, Berkeley, CA 94701

I enclose $_____ for the following purpose(s): (donations are tax-deductible)

_____ To help acquire land for another farm

_____ To help purchase equipment & supplies for the Lodi farm families

_____ For administration and operating expenses of NCLT

_____ I would like to consider a larger donation of land or money to NCLT, but I want to receive more information first.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

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